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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House, Room 224

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

401-222-2080

SECRETARY OF STATE
PUBLIC INFORMATION

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

February 21, 2012

12 - 01

ESTABLISHING THE RHODE ISLAND 1663 COLONIAL CHARTER 350th ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter holds a unique place in the evolution of human rights, its enactment marking the first time in modern history that a mother country explicitly allowed a self-governing political entity in which church and state were separate, groups and individuals were free to speak their minds, and all were free to practice the religion of their choice without interference by the state;

WHEREAS, the principles of religious freedom expressed in the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter are embodied in subsequent colonial charters, the United States Bill of Rights, and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter deserves to be fully studied, interpreted and displayed for future generations in a manner that recognizes its significance in world history;

WHEREAS, heritage tourism is a growing and important component of Rhode Island's economy, and an appropriate celebration and recognition of the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter can be expected to strengthen the national and international recognition of Rhode Island's abundant historic sites and structures and assist in attracting engaged travelers to visit the state and enjoy its resources;

WHEREAS, the 350th anniversary of the signing of the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter will take place on July 8, 2013, a most appropriate date for a comprehensive, state-wide celebration; and

NOW, THEREFORE I, LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby order as follows:

1. The Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission is hereby created.
2. The Governor and Secretary of State shall serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission.
3. The Executive Director of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission or his/her designee shall serve as Chair of the Commission.
4. The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at the Governor's pleasure, and shall include the following and such others as the Governor may appoint:
 - A representative from the Governor's Office
 - A representative selected by the Speaker of the House
 - A representative selected by the President of the Senate
 - A representative from the Lt. Governor's office
 - A representative from the Secretary of State's office
 - A representative from the Economic Development Corporation
 - The State Archivist
 - A representative from the Rhode Island Historical Society
 - A representative from the Newport Historical Society
 - A representative from the Narragansett Indian Tribe
 - A representative from the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society
 - A representative from the Rhode Island Jewish Heritage Association
 - A representative from the Roger Williams Family Association

- A representative from the John Clarke Society
- A representative from the John Carter Brown Library
- A representative from the Rhode Island Council on the Humanities
- A representative from the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- A representative from the Rhode Island Statehouse Restoration Committee
- A representative from the Redwood Library and Athenaeum
- A representative from the John Nicholas Brown Center
- A representative from the Newport World Heritage Committee
- A representative from the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission
- A representative from the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America
- A representative of the Providence Athenaeum
- Any other such representatives as the Governor may from time to time deem necessary.

5. The Commission shall:

- a. Organize a state-wide celebration of the Charter's 350th anniversary;
- b. Review and recommend plans and design specifications for a new encasement for the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter in the Rhode Island State House;
- c. Prepare a statement concerning the Charter's history;
- d. Recommend plans to facilitate the high quality reproduction of the Charter to make it more available to scholars and schoolchildren alike;
- e. Create an educational program to raise awareness of Rhode Island's role in establishing religious freedom and individual liberties; and

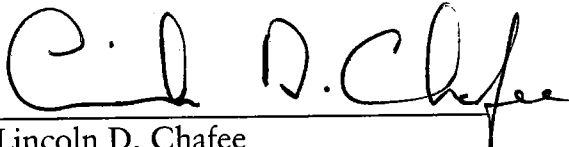
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- f. Solicit and accept grant and charitable funds or in-kind contributions from public and private individuals and organizations to fund these projects and programs.
- 6. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereof and shall remain in effect until February 21, 2016.

So Ordered:



Lincoln D. Chafee

Date Feb. 21, '12